



Linda S. Adams
*Secretary for
Environmental
Protection*

NEWS RELEASE

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114
Phone (916) 464-3291 • FAX (916) 464-4645
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley>



**Arnold
Schwarzenegger**
Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 16, 2009

Contact: Joe Karkoski
Acting Assistant Executive
Officer

Phone: (916) 464-4668

CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD EXECUTIVE OFFICER ISSUES CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER TO FARMER IN STANISLAUS COUNTY

Sacramento- The Central Valley Water Board's Executive Officer issued a Cleanup and Abatement Order to Gerald Flake for inadequate erosion control on over 76 acres of newly planted almond trees. In preparing the land for conversion from pasture to an orchard, native vegetation had been removed and no controls had been put in place to ensure the soil remained on the property. The lack of adequate erosion control resulted in significant discharges of sediment into Peaslee Creek, which is tributary to the Tuolumne River. Discharges of sediment can bury fish spawning habitat and reduce the carrying capacity of rivers and streams.

Water Board staff was originally contacted by the Department of Fish and Game who observed large amounts of sediment in storm water running off the site. The June 8, 2009 Order directs the discharger to take immediate action to stabilize and abate sediment discharges and to complete those actions no later than October 1, 2009.

"We strongly encourage landowners to work with their local Resource Conservation Districts or Natural Resources Conservation Service staff to implement adequate erosion and sediment controls when they grade their land," said Pamela Creedon, Executive Officer of the Central Valley Water Board.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's mission is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources, and to ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.